Statement from the family of Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach:

Our family very much appreciates the outpouring of support and prayers that we have received from our friends and communities. Chris will be dearly missed as a devoted husband, as well as a loving son, brother and uncle. He served his nation for 18 years and spent the last eight of those flying with his fellow Night Stalkers and supporting Special Operations forces. Chris was a strong man and had a firm sense of justice. He believed in his mission and stood up for what he knew was right. Chris died doing what he loved.

We would also like to thank the media for understanding that we will not be granting interviews during this difficult time. We ask that they respect our privacy and allow us time to grieve for him.

Donations may be made in CW4 Chris J. Scherkenbach's name to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Post Office Box 14385, Tampa, Florida 33690.